

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/583,711

Examiner

Jenise E Jackson

Applicant(s)

BARNETT, BARRY STANLEY

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/16/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 19-22.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 03312005.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Examiner's Statement

1. The Applicant is required to submit formal drawings to the Draftsperson, pursuant to allowability of the application.

Reasons For Allowance

2. Status of Claims: In the previous office action dated 12/16/2004, Examiner rejected claims 9-18. In the previous office action 12/16/2004, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-8, and 19-22 are allowable. The Applicant has canceled claims 9-18 which were previously rejected. Claims 1-8, and 19-22 are allowable for the features and reasons listed below:

3. In the prior art of Networking, prior art fails to disclose or suggest, "using the decrypted first value to retrieve a third value from a second copy of the password table"; "encrypting the third value according to a second copy of the encryption key and sending the encrypted third value back to a switch of the SAN"; "decrypting the third value according to the first copy of the encryption key and comparing the decrypted third value with the second value"; "and allowing access to the SAN if the third value and the second value match"; an Example of prior art in networking that does not disclose this is, Blumenau et al. Blumenau et al. discloses a storage access network/Fibre network(SAN) that discloses an authentication method, which stores the unique secret key in the host and port. Copies of the keys are stored in a list in the host and port.

The port includes random numbers(i.e. values). The random numbers and the keys are used by host and port to authenticate. The host controller receives the random number and request verification from the port adapter. The port adapter encrypts the random number with its copy of the host controller's key. The port adapter compares the value from the host controller and if they match access to the storage system is granted. The random number is the first value of

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Blumenau, and the encryption key is the password table. Blumenau does not suggest or disclose a third value, much less a second copy of the encryption key. Blumenau et al. fails to disclose or suggest, the claim limitations, "using the decrypted first value to retrieve a third value from a second copy of the password table"; "encrypting the third value according to a second copy of the encryption key and sending the encrypted third value back to a switch of the SAN"; "decrypting the third value according to the first copy of the encryption key and comparing the decrypted third value with the second value"; "and allowing access to the SAN if the third value and the second value match".

4. In the art of Security, prior art fails to disclose or suggest, "using the decrypted first value to retrieve a third value from a second copy of the password table"; "encrypting the third value according to a second copy of the encryption key and sending the encrypted third value back to a switch of the SAN"; "decrypting the third value according to the first copy of the encryption key and comparing the decrypted third value with the second value"; and allowing access to the SAN if the third value and the second value match". An example of prior art that fails to disclose or suggest the limitations above, is Angelo et al. Angelo discloses providing authentication to insure that a message or data received by one device from another is authentic. The devices both ~~use a set of keys to authenticate messages and data.~~ The first device transmits the message to the second device, and the second device receives the message and decrypts the message to determine if it is valid. In the prior art of Security, and more specifically, Angelo does not disclose a second value, or a third value. Angelo only discloses a first value, which is using a key to encrypt a message and decrypt. Furthermore, there is no password table suggested or

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disclosed in Angelo. Angelo's values are not retrieved for a password table, because there is no table in Angelo, and no suggestion of a password table.

5. In the art of storage access and control, prior art fails to disclose "using the decrypted first value to retrieve a third value from a second copy of the password table"; "encrypting the third value according to a second copy of the encryption key and sending the encrypted third value back to a switch of the SAN"; "decrypting the third value according to the first copy of the encryption key and comparing the decrypted third value with the second value". An example in the art of storage access and control that does not disclose the limitations above, is Prust. Prust discloses a storage network that includes a RAID, for storing data files. The storage network of Prust discloses a pool of virtual storage areas that can be individually assignable to different users. When a user request for a virtual storage area, the storage server prompts the user for a password. In Prust, upon approval, the storage network allocated a storage area to the user. Prior art of storage access control, fails to disclose or suggest, "using the decrypted first value to retrieve a third value from a second copy of the password table"; "encrypting the third value according to a second copy of the encryption key and sending the encrypted third value back to a switch of the SAN"; "decrypting the third value according to the first copy of the encryption key and comparing the decrypted third value with the second value".

6. In Non-patent literature, prior art fails to teach or suggest, "using the decrypted first value to retrieve a third value from a second copy of the password table"; "encrypting the third value according to a second copy of the encryption key and sending the encrypted third value back to a switch of the SAN"; "decrypting the third value according to the first copy of the encryption key and comparing the decrypted third value with the second value". An example in

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non-patent literature that fails to teach the limitations above is, PC Magazine. PC Magazine teaches that SAN devices are drive subsystems that are linked directly to one or more servers via a Fibre Channel. Prior art of non-patent literature, fails to teach or suggest, "using the decrypted first value to retrieve a third value from a second copy of the password table"; "encrypting the third value according to a second copy of the encryption key and sending the encrypted third value back to a switch of the SAN"; "decrypting the third value according to the first copy of the encryption key and comparing the decrypted third value with the second value".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jenise E Jackson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3791.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) alternate Friday's.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



March 31, 2005



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